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Washington Roundup

Silent Service

U. S. Navy embargoed time of the USS Ohio's first Trident intercontinental ballistic missile launch (see p. 20), but that had no effect on the Soviets, who read the time and coordinates from a Notice to Mariners alerting all ships to stay clear. So they did, with exception of a Soviet intelligence trawler, which exchanged flag hoist signals with the escort vessel Range Sentinel. Navy Signal School at Orlando was later asked what the signals were—they are internationally used—and the caller was told they were secret.

It could all have something to do with the Reagan Administration preoccupation with leaks and "unauthorized" information dissemination, which President Reagan last week said were detrimental to U. S. foreign policy and negotiations. Actions stopping this, he went on, "will not interfere with our determination to have an open Administration."

—Washington Staff